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Professors Albert Bushnell Hart, Charles A. Beard, William Bennett Munro, Leo S. Rowe, with Clinton Rogers Woodruff as chairman, have planned a series of volumes to be known as the National Municipal League Series. The volumes are to be based, in part at least, upon the papers that have been read and the discussions that have taken place at the annual meetings of the league. The editor of each is given complete freedom as to his volume, including the freedom to write such chapters as he wishes and to select such papers as he deems most valuable. Such a plan ought to secure a well planned and valuable series, and give a wider circulation to the many able papers that have been prepared under the auspices of the National Municipal League.

"City Government by Commission" is the first of the series to appear. Of the seventeen chapters in the volume, the editor has written nine. The remaining chapters are written by Prof. William Bennett Munro, Oswald Ryan, Dr. Ernest S. Bradford, Ansley Wilcox, Horace E. Deming, Knowlton Mixer, Rear Admiral F. E. Chadwick and Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart. The growth of the commission movement and the principles involved in the commission plan are clearly and adequately discussed. Leading types of commission plans and salient provisions of commission statutes and charters are interestingly described and analyzed. The arguments for and against the commission plan are succinctly stated. Its applicability to large cities is ably discussed both pro and con. The results of the plan in certain cities, especially in Texas and Iowa cities, are given. These results are based upon the material furnished by those thoroughly conversant with the local situation in each of the cities.

The editor concludes that commission government has so far been distinctly successful. Its success he attributes to "two fundamental essentials to successful municipal government: simplicity and concentration of authority and responsibility." The book gives an able, readable and comprehensive description of the commission plan, its accomplishments and its future. It sets a high standard for succeeding volumes in the series.

Three other volume in the series will soon be ready for the press. These have to do with "The Regulation of Municipal Utilities," "The Initiative, Referendum and Recall" and "Constitutional Municipal Home Rule." Four other volumes are planned, dealing respectively with "Municipal Recreation," "City Planning," "Municipal Health and Sanitation" and "City Finances." The series thus promises to give timely and adequate discussions of vital municipal problems.

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Woodruff, Clinton Rogers (Ed.). *Proceedings of the Buffalo Conference for Good City Government and the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the National Municipal League*. Pp. vi, 587. Price, \$4.00. Philadelphia: National Municipal League, 1910.

The marked characteristic of this volume is its freedom from the platitudinous

prattle that too often characterizes the papers and work of those interested in bettering municipal conditions. Of the twenty-five formal articles in the volume not one is unworthy of the league's high standing and efficient work. Not only are the articles free from tiresome platitudes, but they are specific, concrete, scholarly, written by men thoroughly versed in their subjects, yet so written as to be of value alike to the layman and the specialist. Articles of this type are those by Dr. William F. Willoughby on "The Correlation of Financial and Physical Statistics of Cities," by Dr. L. F. Fuld on "Police Administration," by Harvey S. Chase on "Budgets and Balance Sheets," by Dr. Delos F. Wilcox on "Elements of a Conservative Franchise Policy," and by Charles F. Gettemy on "The Standardizing of Municipal Accounts and Statistics in Massachusetts."

Four other papers, also of high standard, are especially worthy of mention because they deal with the newer municipal problems, pointing the way to new emphasis or new methods of municipal activity. These are Dr. E. S. Bradford's inclusive article on "A Comparison of Commission Forms of Government to Date," William Dudley Foulke's article on "Conservation in Municipalities," Edward J. Ward's report on the "Work of the School Extension Committee," and John Martin's suggestive paper on "The Unearned Increment in Municipalities." This last article is of timely significance to every one interested, not only in equitable taxation, but in civic and social justice and betterment. It deals with a problem already too long neglected.

There are other articles of deep import, such as five excellent studies of local franchise situations, studies needed for the enrichment of the literature on that subject, and of value in suggesting avenues of activity to other municipalities. Education, nominations, elections, graft, politics, citizenship all receive capable attention.

The volume is characterized by constructive papers by those that are masters of their fields. The general effect therefore, is one of optimism, and portends goodly strides toward efficiency in municipal government—long the goal of the National Municipal League.

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